

NGALANG BOODJA COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Statement by Member for Collie–Preston

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [12:56 pm]: I am pleased to report on a very special event on the Collie community calendar. Collie's Ngalang Boodja Council Aboriginal Corporation ran an event focused on promoting healthy living, raising cultural awareness, and activities, to inform and engage local youth in the community. The event started with a smoking ceremony; a very important and symbolic start for the local Noongar community. The chair, Norm Hayward, and chief executive officer, Louis Evans, worked extremely hard to ensure the series of events ran smoothly. The day ended with an awards evening, which I was privileged to be invited to attend. The evening showed the local Noongar community at its finest, with high fashion, including suits and bow ties, the order of the night. It was absolutely magnificent, with a meal to match. The Noongar of the year award was shared between Elaine Chitty and James Khan. Elaine was recognised for her hard work delivering Noongar sports and establishing the Koolankas Aboriginal Playgroup. James was recognised for his work on boards and committees including the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, the Shire of Collie's weed and waterways advisory committee and the Collie Eagles Football Club committee. Other award winners included: vocational education and training student of the year, Jessica Turvey; primary school student of the year, Dianne Ugle; secondary school student of the year, Pauline Ugle; senior sportsman of the year, Matthew Michael; junior sportsman of the year, Christen Ugle-Thorne; senior sportswoman of the year, Rose Bury; junior sportswoman of the year, Myra Ugle; senior artist of the year joint winners, Phillip Hansen and Jimmy Thorne; volunteer of the year, Lauri Ryding; and employee of the year, Roger Ugle. It is with pride I say congratulations to all concerned.